

Emerald Express 06-2

USMC/SOCOM Operations:

MCSOCOM Detachment One

Information Paper



Introduction. *Emerald Express 06-2 (EE 06-2): USMC/SOCOM Operations: MCSOCOM Detachment One*, will be conducted in Quantico, VA 8 Mar 06. *EE 06-2* is a component of the wider *Emerald Express* Program that, in turn, operates under the aegis of the USMC Small Wars Center of Excellence. *Emerald Express* is a continuing series of conferences and workshops designed to quickly garner critical insights, lessons learned, and residual issues from recent operations and the development of distinctive force capabilities, to ensure that a corporate memory is catalogued, and to directly distribute the results to as wide a range of appropriate organizations and individuals as possible, as well as inform and energize ongoing examinations of key issues. For example, *Emerald Express* supports other major programs such as *Expeditionary Warrior*, the Marine Corps' Title X Wargaming Program, and *Joint Urban Warrior*, a collaborative effort with USJFCOM. *Emerald Express* is modeled on *Exercise Emerald Express* conducted by CG, I MEF in 1995, the first of several large-scale exercises that addressed operations from a comprehensive military and interagency perspective. Recent *Emerald Express* events have addressed urban operations in *Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) I & II*, the interagency dimensions of *OIF*, humanitarian assistance (HA) and stability and support operations (SASO) in *OIF*, USMC and Royal Marine operations in *Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)*, and operations in Haiti and the Horn of Africa (HOA).

Focus. *EE 06-2* will review the operational experience of MCSOCOM DET One in *OIF* within the framework of the *Emerald Express* approach noted above. Particular emphasis will be devoted to manning, organization, training, capabilities, and operational effectiveness.

Participants. *EE 06-2* will bring together key operational participants, appropriate representatives of the special operations community, along with other interested organizations and individuals both to benefit from the operational and organizational insights developed to illuminate future issues.

Background

- With the onset of the Global War on Terror (GWOT), the role of Special Operations Forces (SOF) and USSOCOM expanded. The Secretary of Defense and

political leaders envisioned a much wider application of SOF capabilities to the GWOT.

- Developing SOF units is expensive and time consuming, representing demands on manpower and training programs. These conditions, combined with requirements of the 2002 National Security Strategy (NSS), changed the traditional relationship between the Marine Corps and USSOCOM, including USMC force contributions and greater interoperability in certain USSOCOM missions.
- The first two iterations of *Expeditionary Warrior (EW 03 and EW 04)* specifically addressed issues surrounding Marine Corps-SOCOM interoperability in the GWOT.
- Additionally, the Marine Corps established MCSOCOM DET One at Camp Pendleton in March 2003. This action was one of several initiatives to increase Marine Corps support to USSOCOM and was generally agreed to be a successful "proof of concept." MCSOCOM DET One has since been disbanded.
- In October 2005, SECDEF directed the establishment of a Marine Corps component to USSOCOM. HQMC created the MARSOC and is in the process of standing up this new organization. Discussion is ongoing, both inside and outside the Marine Corps, regarding organization and capabilities of the MARSOC.

Additional Information. Administrative details, to include an agenda, will be published at a later date and can be accessed at:

www.wargaming.quantico.usmc.mil/

www.smallwars.quantico.usmc.mil

Or by contacting the Wargaming POC listed below:

Event Registration

www.wargaming.quantico.usmc.mil/Events/Events.asp

Contact Information

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